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23, which was continuous with the base plate portion 22 (i.e., shared the same surface) before the formation of the through-hole 29, becomes radially longer in cross section than a folded-back plate portion 23b of the ~~rod-like~~ portion 23, which was continuous with the folded-back plate portion 24 before formation of the through-hole 29.

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On page <sup>14</sup>13, the first full paragraph has been amended as follows:

Accordingly, in a state where the ~~rod-like~~ portion 23 has moved to the hook 5 in the direction of the arrow A to be engaged therewith, the base-plate portion 23a is in contact with the front leg portion 52 of the hook 5 while undergoing a force from the hook 5. In other words, the base-plate portion 23a exerts a force on the hook 5.

The last full paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 has been amended as follows:

Accordingly, the striker 2 can secure a sufficient strength without being formed with a mounting plate portion such as the mounting plate portion 221' shown in Figure 6B. Moreover, the folded-back plate portion 24 can be prevented from coming off the base plate portion 22 even if the folded-back plate portion 24 is not fixed to the base plate portion 22 by welding or adhering. Accordingly, the folded-back plate portion 24 can be provided only for the purpose of achieving the ~~rod-like~~ rod portion 24 having a circular shape in cross section with a required thickness while securing a sufficient thickness of the ~~rod-like~~ rod portion 23. For instance, another embodiment of a striker 12 shown in Figure 5 is different from the striker 2 in that the striker 12 is provided with only the ~~rod-like~~ rod portion 23 and no folded-back plate portion corresponding to the folded-back plate portion 24 that lies on the base plate portion 22, even though the striker 12 is the same as the striker 2 in that an extended portion, which extends from one end of the base plate portion 22 in the direction of the aforementioned bend line, is folded over. To make a through-hole 119 in the striker 12, the base plate portion 22 only needs to be formed (punched) by a hole-press operation, which facilitates manufacture of the striker 12.